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FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1922.

The Bureau and the Legion.

THE Veterans Bureau again is under fire. While the process of decentralization was under way world war societies watched and waited, hoping for better things. Now regional offices and suboffices have been established throughout the country. Theoretically, at least, the old system has been discontinued.

But is the new plan affording any better satisfaction than the old? It is, according to Col. Forbes, his veterans and his press agents. It is not, according to members of Congress who saw active service in the world war, officials of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and hundreds of former soldiers and sailors who must do business with the organization.

It is only fair to Mr. Forbes and his assistants to admit that no small number of difficulties were encountered in the work of decentralization. The movement was opposed bitterly by employees who resented leaving comfortable homes in Washington for the less desirable surroundings of other American cities. Just now national officials of the American Legion are investigating claims that some of these workers deliberately sent records astray in order to hinder the work. Certainly heads of district offices have encountered all sorts of trouble because of misplaced papers.

But the American Legion has built up a case against the Bureau which is based only on ascertained facts, officers say. For the past two months the investigation has been under way. The first of a series of articles by Marquis James is published in the weekly magazine of the organization today and will be followed by ten others. Mr. James says the first exposure is mild compared with what will follow. If that is a fact the Veterans' Bureau needs a housecleaning at once. The American people will demand that the old scandalous inefficiency which has afflicted the organization from the start be ended.

Mr. James' investigations were undertaken with the sanction and assistance of the national legislative committee of the legion, which has offices in Washington.

The legion places scant blame on Col. Forbes because it realizes the difficulties he has encountered. It offers him support in putting an end to disgusting conditions.

"Most of what the public and the veterans have been permitted to read of the bureau," says Mr. James, "has come from the bureau's publicity office in Washington. It is to be regretted that these utterances frequently have been misleading. Just now the bureau is spending \$28,600,000 a year, and the President's signature to the new Langley bill increases this total to \$345,600,000, as much as it cost to run the whole government 25 years ago. We hear that 30,000 men are in hospitals, and that 109,000 are taking up vocational training. The inference is that all is lovely. This inference is false. Thirty thousand men in hospitals means little unless we know they are in fit hospitals and that there are no others not in hospitals who should be there. We know the contrary of this to be true. One hundred and nine thousand men in vocational training is significant only if these men are getting training which will enable them to come back to your town and mine and earn a living. Such is not the case. So much for figures as instruments of propaganda. Though the government is spending more than a half billion dollars annually the disabled veterans do not get benefits in any way commensurate with that vast outlay. Between the taxpayer who gives and the veteran who receives intervenes the old familiar bucket brigade—incompetence, jealousy, mismanagement, greed, waste, extravagance and shortsightedness. Of the golden stream Uncle Sam pours forth, far too few drop reach the ultimate beneficiary, the disabled service man. The sinister figure of politics, in its worst manifestation that of the spoilsman, lurks in anterooms and dark corners. Literally thousands of appointments are made within the Bureau. What a plum crop! Before it pipped its shell the new bureau felt the hypnotic influence of political pressure and political interference.

"It seems unthinkable that politics and private greed could delay for a year the location of hospitals while men who have fought the country's battles are dying and going insane for the need of those hospitals. But this is the case. Site on site has been chosen, agreed upon by eminent experts, only to be abandoned in the face of objections arising from politics or selfishness or both. There was the millionaire who knew Secretary Mellon. He didn't want a soldiers' hospital near his country estate and he had his way. An exclusive young ladies' college viewed with repugnance the same thought; another rich man 'saw' an influential Congressman; rival chambers of commerce created a Sargasso Sea which impeded all progress. These incidents seem unthinkable, but they are true. These are only a few of the factors which brought about the failure of the hospital building program inspired by Commander Galbraith and for which \$18,600,000 was appropriated fifteen months ago.

"Vocational training is only 70 per cent efficient by Mr. Forbes' own admission. The director speaks conservatively. The present vocational training situation is doing a large part of those 109,000 students no good, but positive harm. If these be facts, then it behooves Colonel Forbes to act immediately to put his house in order."

The Herald in New York
These Hotels and Newsstands in New York City Have The Herald on Sale:

HOTELS		
Astor	Imperial	Prince George
Belmont	Martinez	Ritz-Carlton
Biltmore	McAlpin	Savoy
Breslin	Murray Hill	Vanderbilt
Commodore	Pennsylvania	Waldorf

NEWSSTANDS

220 Broadway	Pennsylvania	Schultz, 42d
Woolworth	Station	St. & 6th Ave.
Building	Hotelling's	News Boy, 32d
300 Fifth Ave.	Times Square	St. & 6th Ave.

A Clean-Up Needed.

STRICT enforcement of prohibition may or may not be possible in Washington and in adjacent Maryland and Virginia counties. But complete eradication of the bootlegger is possible and should be accomplished without delay.

The riot on a river steamer Wednesday evening, which took place before several hundred District high school students and resulted in at least one murder, appears to have started over a liquor selling dispute. It was not the first nor will it be the last fatal fight to start in the same way.

The bootlegging element is almost without exception, composed of criminals. Most of them have criminal records. All of them have criminal tendencies. The police know who many of these men are, and it is difficult to understand why they are not lodged in jail. One carefully planned and efficiently executed round-up of Washington bootleggers would stop, we venture to predict, two-thirds of the crime in the District.

Bootlegging charges give the police a splendid opportunity to get sentences for these men. Before prohibition it might sometimes have been difficult to put them behind bars. But when they follow a calling which is a continual violation of the law there should be no trouble.

The worst of the old barroom crowd are engaged in this business. From them are recruited 90 per cent of the murderers, thieves, and degenerates which afflict this part of the country by their presence.

The Marshall Hall incident will afford the police an opportunity to round up a number of these. They should not be allowed to escape very easily. Washington citizens will be able to sleep better if they know that the greater portion of this element is behind the bars.

An intensive round-up of these "gutter rats" would have the support of everybody. Those who patronize the street corner and lunchroom bootlegging class despise them the most and would be as glad as anyone else to see them in prison.

Prohibition has made few new criminals. It has simply increased the activities of those who already were criminals.

The police should know where these men can be found. They gather in any number of lunchrooms after dark. It will be far cheaper for the public to keep them in jail than to allow them to remain at liberty. So long as they are loose they will do damage. It is up to the police to put them where they are harmless.

At the Hague.

SELDOM has a conference of nations met under less hopeful conditions than that which now is sitting at The Hague. The world, to be frank, expects nothing to come of it. The Genoa gathering was a disappointment. Its accomplishments were considerable, but they were buried under the debris of its failures. The Hague is little more than an effort to reach solutions which the previous sitting proved could not be reached at this time.

Sir Phillip Lloyd Graeme, head of the British delegation, speaks bravely but there is a suggestion of monstrous bluff about his words.

"We don't care what theories the Soviets hold if they will reach a practical understanding permitting business relations," he says. "If France or any other nation declines to meet the Russians, June 26, then the commissions will proceed to negotiate with the Soviets without them."

This is all very well. But it can not be done. The head of the British delegation knows that it can not be done.

Individual nations of Europe at any time can make whatever private arrangements they wish with Russia. But with France, or any other powerful state of the continent missing, any conclusions arrived at by the conference will mean very little to the Bolshevik power.

Perhaps the Russians are willing to come to a practical understanding. But if they retain their theories of economics what will this amount to? Whoever comes to an agreement with them knows that this will be only temporary and that Moscow will repudiate anything as soon as her statesmen believe they can put their theories in full practice again.

If anything worth while does result from The Hague conference it will come as a decided surprise. Scant effort has been made to give the gathering publicity. It is the most obscure of all the great world conclaves. Nobody, it seems, cares to assume responsibility. It is the ghost of Genoa, not the continuation of the living body.

The attitude taken by the French may be obstructive, but it is logical. To send a delegation to Holland without a definite idea of the basis for negotiations would merely constitute a waste of money. The Russians showed their tactics at Genoa. They displayed almost no consideration for the welfare of Europe. Nothing more can be expected of them this time.

The horizon may clear at The Hague. Just at present it appears very cloudy. It will be well if it does not end in a storm.

It is said the man who invented the Eskimo pie has already made several million dollars. It seems strange that he has not begun giving the world advice on psychoanalysis or international finance, being an inventor and everything.

The only mosquito screen we know of that is effective is made of solid sheet steel one inch thick.

Thousands of men go hunting these days. But it doesn't do much good. Nearly everything is in bond and locked up in warehouses.

Henry Ford has invented a new flour. How many pancakes to the gallon?

Ten women poisoned by eating custard pie. They would never do for movie comedienne.

New York City
Don by Day
Impressions:
by O. C. McIntyre

NEW YORK, June 15.—A page from the diary of a modern Samuel Pepys: Up early and with my wife to a half-way house and there drank a beaker of cold milk, and a mighty ride walk, too. This day I donned my new straw head-piece and even the clerks sniggered at my droll appearance.

Thence to the river to hear a boatful of Italians sing, very sweet. Walking to the Dutch Treat for luncheon I heard Sinclair Lewis talk, but not in his usual good form. Saw, too, K. K. Chen, the scribbler, back from H. K. and declares it a dull, stupid place, with which I agree.

Dressed about my chambers and came E. Hughes, the Detroit editor, and I promised to write a piece for him and we discussed King Lear, who, I believe, is the finest humorist of our day, yet R. Long does not he has written some sentimental prose that is, I think, better than his.

In the evening with my wife, poor wretch, to the opening of the Forster and spoke to Victor Herbert, Dave Stamper, Paul Whiteman, Evelyn Baer, and others, but the majority, being of society, I did not know. At 2:30 in the morning to Jack's, where I ate a large plate of Irish bacon and eggs and slept till all the night long.

The radio as a restaurant attraction is skidded to oblivion. Proprietors tell me patrons prefer to do their own talking. Others who tried them out have gone back to a tucker service and are offering their customers the old radio service of the tape. One of the latest is set up in the shop of a Fifth avenue confectioner, a place of the gilt chair and tiny tea cake type.

The green lights in front of the district police stations are soon to go. They will be supplanted by mellow white lights. For years the green light has been a mark of the heart of the patrol wagon riders. When they saw them they knew the next step was the lonely cell. The New York district police station at the corner of the 10th and 11th streets is an atmosphere as cold as the flag-stone floors. The lieutenants in charge appear to have been selected for their roughness of manner and lack of sympathy. They make no pretension of innocence. Every man who comes in led by a policeman is guilty, even though he is a victim of circumstance. The light of the automobile unlighted after dusk.

It is just a patch of a square down in Greenwich Village. It is not even on the map, but the denizens of the sultry basement caves know it as Mulry Square. It is a triangle of faded egg sandwiches, made by an Irishman with flaming red hair. He has a little stockroom and a four-foot long counter with three stools. Like Reuben's sandwich place on upper Broadway, the little eatery has suddenly caught the midnight crowds. They go down there from the supper clubs in the early morning and Mulry Square has suddenly become a night life and scenery that is a striking variation on the Greenwich Village theme. Mulry is a square by courtesy only. In reality it is a triangle. It does not lack in atmosphere of the park paraphernalia. It has cinders instead of a grass plot, and a coffee urn and a gasoline pump are as close as it ever gets to a fountain. What it lacks in status, it makes up in artistically friend eggs with just a slight dash of ground onion.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE DAY'S NEWS

Admiral Baron Kato, the new premier of Japan, succeeds Korekiyo Takahashi.

Kato was the popular candidate for the premiership with the people of Japan because they regard him as a real advocate of disarmament.

He was the titular head of the Japanese delegation at the Washington arms conference and since his return to Tokyo has indicated his intention of strict observance of the Washington treaties.

However, a large section of the Japanese people has been attacking Kato during the past few weeks, declaring that he surrendered Japan's interests by not holding out for equality with England and America.

It is believed that Regent Prince Hirohito's choice of Kato for the premiership will convince the world of Japan's sincerity in carrying out the terms of the Washington Administration.

Admiral Kato distinguished himself in the Russian war as the chief of staff of the Kaniura squadron.

Up to the time of his selection to head the arms delegation he had kept out of politics.

During the world war Kato was in command of the Japanese squadron, which blockaded Shantung in 1914.

The Friend of the People
ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS
This department is conducted by The Herald in answer to questions of its readers. All questions will be answered in these columns. Address letters to The Friend of the People.

CONCERNING WAR PRISONERS.
To the Friend of the People:
Kindly state if there are any American soldiers in jails, prisoners of war in this country. Where confined, and how many? E. C. M.

"There are no prisoners of war in this country," says the War Department. "The only soldiers confined in Fort Leavenworth, United States penitentiary, Atlanta, Ga., and at McNeil, Cal., for offenses committed during the war whose sentences have not expired."

OLIVER TYPEWRITER COMPANY.
To the Friend of the People:
Please tell me where to address the Oliver Typewriter company. Also tell me the price of an Oliver machine. MISS Z. L. K.

The price of an Oliver typewriter is \$49.50. Address the Oliver Typewriter Company, Oliver Typewriter Building, Chicago.

HARVEST OF ICE.
To the Friend of the People:
Can you inform me as to how many tons of ice have been harvested from the Hudson River in the years of 1901, 1902 and 1920-21?

In 1901-2 4,666,800 tons were harvested, in 1902-3 3,331,000 tons were harvested and in 1920-21 190,823 tons were harvested.

WHAT IS BIGAMY.
To the Friend of the People:
What is the definition of bigamy. X. Y. Z.

Any person having an undivorced husband or wife living and marries another is guilty of bigamy.

LONG WALK TO PERNAMBU.
To the Friend of the People:
What is the distance from New York to Pernambuco, Brazil? MRS. L. O. L.

The distance from New York to Pernambuco, Brazil, is 3,656 miles.

SAFE DEPOSIT VAULTS.
To the Friend of the People:
Will you kindly inform me what becomes of the depository for such articles? Perhaps some of

these institutions will inform you whether such articles are ever advertised and sold for large charges. L. G. W.

When valuables are deposited in a reputable bank or firm's vaults and are uncalled for after a lapse of three years, a registered letter is sent to the owner of the box, and if the rent of the safe deposit box is not paid, the box is opened by locksmen. A bank has no obligation to keep the contents of the box and one outsider witness the opening of the box. The valuables are then placed in safekeeping by the bank for a definite length of time or until the owner or owners' estate can be located and removed. A bank has an entirely different method. After furniture or goods have been stored in a warehouse they notify the owner at his last known address that the property in storage will be sold at public auction after ten days. A time-consuming process to give the owner an opportunity to pay for the storage.

SALARIES OF MARYLAND STATE LEGISLATORS.
To the Friend of the People:
What are the salaries of the members of the State legislature of Maryland? A SUBSCRIBER.

The salaries paid to the members of the Maryland State legislature are \$5. per day for ninety days every two years which is the regular session, and the same sum is paid per day when convened in an emergency session.

CIRCLE HAS 300 DEGREES.
To the Friend of the People:
Kindly tell me why the number of degrees on a watch dial are the same as on the earth's surface. R. C. L.

Degrees measure angles and not space. The angles constructible in the center of a watch dial are the same as those constructible on a plane on the surface of the earth, regardless of the length of the radius, by process of law or by the death of the angle.

NO BONUS IN TEXAS.
To the Friend of the People:
Does the State of Texas give a bonus to soldiers who served in the late war? SAM.

The State of Texas does not give a bonus to former soldiers.

Open Court Letters to the Herald
OTHER PEOPLES VIEWS ON TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST

Saluting the Flag.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
A. L. L. is evidently of an emotional temperament, as in the article thus signed, the flag is made a fetish.

The savage puts his totem on the end of a pole and worships it, and those who would make a mumbo-jumbo of the flag have been a little further advanced than the fetish worshippers.

The government is a business pure and simple, and we owe the same respect to the flag that we owe to the business man who does his business sign.

A. L. L. should read Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and note that the crowd cheered Caesar and that he was murdered by his own people; also King Henry IV, how the agents of the King put down the rebellion of Jack Cade by appeals to the patriotic English hatred of the French.

A. L. L. should read Roman history to understand that patriotism has always been the tool of knaves to keep in subjection the poor and oppressed. But not in America. Of course not! The fools and knaves are not flag shakers here!

During the civil war a fake showman in Alexandria threatened to denounce an indignant patron as disloyal to the flag, because he complained of being faked out of his money; this happened just after the order to "shoot anyone who hoisted down the flag which transformed the mob into flag lunatics.

A. L. L. says the flag never changes in our Revolutionary war the red flag was used by Gen. Lee at the Battle of Gettysburg. Bemis Heights (Saratoga), Oriskany and Bannington (see Longfellow's poem on the consecration of the red banner of Pulaski) by the Moravian nuns of Bethlehem, Pa., patron as disloyal to the flag, because he complained of being faked out of his money; this happened just after the order to "shoot anyone who hoisted down the flag which transformed the mob into flag lunatics.

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Pay for Duty, He Says.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
It was a pleasure to read Mr. Stoddard's comments on the bonus advocates in this morning's issue.

Mr. Stoddard was very fair and generous but he took into consideration only the person who is not a former service man, who will not help pay the bonus but will not benefit by it.

What Mr. Stoddard thinks of the former service man who is demanding a bonus for himself.

In my mind's eye I can see a grocer or a farmer service man standing on a corner. The policeman, man or fireman, in line of duty, rescue some citizen from grave danger at the risk of his own life. I can hear their cheers for the brave New Yorker who has saved him from drowning in the victim's pocket reward for his services. Quickly the cheers give way to the fireman or policeman is showing exactly the same spirit that the national officers of the American Legion show when they demand a bonus.

As a former service man I firmly believe that the majority of the boys are against the bonus. Let the American Legion use its energies in furthering the prosecution of war profiteers and criminals. Let it engage actively in foreign-born population. Let it work to bring about American conditions and standards of living in our big coal and iron centers. In short, let those who offered to die for country live for it, and they will be a power for good and will take their places among the truly great. Incidentally, then, the membership of the American Legion could be increased to more than 20 per cent of the total of the former service men.

E. H. NYE.

In Defense of Open Court.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
I shall not address you as "Little Children," as was done by the apostle Paul in his article in yesterday's Herald entitled, "Constructive Criticism."

I do not intend to allow this insult to our column to go unchallenged because it casts a reflection upon both us and the editor of "our" column.

As to the inference that the aforesaid apostle Paul wants the editor to resign and allow him to take charge for a while and write the column himself until we can understand him to express our thoughts to suit him?

We are told in this "constructive" article what NOT to write about, but how are we to know without instructions what "Dad" Holmes allows us to write about and

how do you know what to print

unless "Dad" examines our manuscripts and censors them?

It seems odd that a great giant like Mr. Holmes should rush to the newstand and get The Herald and turn to the "Open Court" first thing and call it "indoor sport" to read a lot of "puerile, driving road."

He says he "is forced" to read it. Why? Because it is the most intensely interesting part of the paper.

I see more people reading this column and discussing it than any other part of the paper simply because it is the most interesting of the common people to which class most of us belong.

To tell the editor of "our column" that he is wasting his time publishing a column that has "not one word of sense" is the chronicle of the common people to which class most of us belong.

Now, I suggest that if "Father Holmes" knows how to write a model article on a proper subject that he do so and we will paste it in our "scrap books" and memorize it like the Lord's Prayer. But allow me to predict that his article "Constructive Criticism" will start more "scrap" than "scrap books."

Fellow Contributors: Let us realize the language of the Saviour. "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." Mr. Holmes means well but the weather is hot and science has shown that "the human mind dwelling long on one subject becomes insane." He has realized his "stupidity" and he needs an intellectual tonic, so let us try to give it to him in a spirit of fun and kindness.

SAM SIMPLE.